

Abstract

A surgical stapler with a removable staple cartridge, wherein the cartridge is preferably in a disposable form, utilizing a combination of a staple feeding mechanism and a staple forming mechanism secured in a frame and an actuating trigger functionally connected to both the staple feeding mechanism and the staple forming mechanism. Said staple feeding mechanism includes a rail to guide the contained staples from said cartridge into a staple forming position while said staple forming mechanism utilizes a forming tool to lock said cartridge in a handle assembly. This structure provides a reliable and economical surgical stapler in which said cartridge is attached to the handle assembly in a new and novel fashion.